
The following poetry exercise appears in the book *The Triggering Town: Lectures and Essays on Poetry and Writing*. The following text has been transcribed from the 1992 reissued paperback edition, published by W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. Page 30.

<i>Nouns</i>	<i>Verbs</i>	<i>Adjectives</i>
tamarack	to kiss	blue
throat	to curve	hot
belief	to swing	soft
rock	to ruin	tough
frog	to bite	important
dog	to cut	wavering
slag	to surprise	sharp
eye	to bruise	cool
cloud	to hug	red
mud	to say	leather

Use five nouns, verbs, and adjectives from the above lists and write a poem as follows:

1. Four beats to the line (can vary)
2. Six lines to the stanza
3. Three stanzas
4. At least two internal and one external slant rhyme per stanza (full rhymes acceptable but not encouraged)
5. Maximum of two end stops per stanza
6. Clear English grammatical sentences (no tricks). All sentences must make sense.
7. The poem must be meaningless.

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